



Lance Cpl. Jason B. Davis (left), and Lance Cpl. Garrett E. Vance (right), digital wideband radio operators, Communications Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, set up communications during a field exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 15. Marines used Meal Ready-to-Eat boxes, camouflage net poles and slash wire to create their own antennas.

Keep in touch: CLB-15 Marines establish communications for training

Story and photo by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with Communications Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a communications exercise here, July 11-17, in preparation for an upcoming training exercise with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The training at Red Beach was the first field exercise for the detachment, whose members were recently pulled from different units and attached to the 11th MEU. CLB-15 worked to establish communications with multiple units under the 1st MLG.

During the exercise, Marines dispatched to Del Mar Beach and practiced setting up a jump command post before the 11th MEU arrived to conduct offloading operations. A jump command post is a

mobile communications effort that provides relocation abilities to the commander.

“Our mission is to set up a mobile combat operations center for the Maritime Prepositioning Force offload as a training exercise for next week,” said Lance Cpl. Garrett E. Vance, digital wideband radio operator, Comm. Det., CLB-15, 1st MLG.

According to 1st Lt. Brian M. Chamberlain, communications officer, Comm. Det., CLB-15, 1st MLG, the exercise was a practice run for the Marines, requiring the establishment of multiple types of communications.

“Very high-frequency communications provide internal [communications] with the combat operations center located at Red Beach,” said Chamberlain, 31, from Woodstock, Ga. “The jump command post we are creating (at Del Mar Beach) has the same function as the COC. This

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Hearing loss

There’s only prevention, no treatment, docs say

Story and photo by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Service members underwent an audiogram test at the Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Regimental Aid Station here, July 13.

The Marine Corps recently updated its policy, in response to a recommendation from the Naval Audit Service draft report, requiring all Marines to take the hearing test annually due to the number of Marines leaving the military with hearing loss. The Corps uses the audiogram test to measure the Marines’ hearing capability and to monitor hearing loss.

According to the draft report, commands and units shall track baseline, periodic and termination audiogram dates using Medical Readiness Reporting System hearing conservation reports. Personnel shall not be removed from annual hearing testing unless work sites, processes or equipment are determined non-

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Staff Sgt. Wilfredo Segovia-Aguilar (left), 34, from Elizabeth, N.J., program manager, and Staff Sgt. Charles Mitchell (right), 34, from Carlsbad, Calif., Edson Range’s post exchange manager, both with Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, take the annual audiogram test on Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13.

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CLR-1 welcomes new CO

Story and photo by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – With the American flag flying high in the background and the 1st Marine Division Band playing, Col. Thomas B. Eipp, from Sonoma, Calif., transferred all duties and responsibilities as the commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, to Col. James C. Caley, from Kingston, Wash., here, July 15.

“Tom, as you pass on the colors today, you should be proud of your accomplishments and the accomplishments of your regiment,” said Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow, commanding general, 1st MLG.

During his tenure at CLR-1, Eipp successfully provided superb support to all elements of the 1st Marine

Division, said Broadmeadow. After he passed the regiment’s colors to Caley, Eipp addressed the Marines and sailors with the regiment.

“Marines and sailors of CLR-1, you have done an outstanding and magnificent job during my time with you,” said Eipp. “You’ve risen to every challenge that was given to you and exceeded in every way. Thank you for everything you do.”

Having tirelessly supported the Blue Diamond for the past two years as the regimental commander for CLR-1, Eipp is now ready to lead that effort from within as he takes the reins of the 1st Marine Division, G-4, Broadmeadow stated. Eipp is confident that the Marines and sailors with CLR-1 are fully trained and prepared, ready to execute any mission given to them.

“Jim, welcome back to 1st MLG,” said Broadmeadow, addressing Caley. “I am confident that

your leadership and experience will maintain the regiment’s strong tradition of warfighting excellence.”

Having already been the executive officer of CLR-1 in 2008, Caley knew exactly what these Marines and sailors are capable of doing.

“I’ve worked with these Marines and sailors before,” said Caley. “They were professional then, and I can say that they’ve only gotten better; even the new [service members] in the regiment are catching on quickly. It shows in their performance on and off duty.”

After three years of being out of 1st MLG, Caley is excited to take on the role as CLR-1 commander.

“I’m looking forward to serving with you Marines and sailors again,” said Caley. “I have no doubt that we’ll be able to continue to advance the regimental structure and support the 1st Marine Division in all elements, in combat zones and in garrison.”



Col. Thomas B. Eipp (right), from Sonoma, Calif., presents the colors of Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, to Col. James C. Caley, from Kingston, Wash., on Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 15.

HAPPENINGS

Motorcycle Safety Courses

An advanced riders course will be held weekly, Wednesdays from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A basic rider’s course will be held weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Both courses will take place at Bldg. 200071. For more information, call Kevin Frantum at (760) 725-2897.

Free ‘Warrior’ screening today

A free screening of the movie ‘Warrior’ will take place at the Base Theatre at 5 p.m., today. Service members can meet actors Tom Hardy, Kurt Angle and Joel Edgerton.

SMP Six Flags Trip Saturday

The Single Marine Program is hosting a Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor Trip, July 23, at 8 a.m. There is a fee of \$20 per individual, which includes transportation and admission. To sign up, call (760) 725-6722.

Rumsfeld Book Signing Sunday

Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld will be signing his new book ‘Known and Unknown’ at the Country Store, 2 p.m., Sunday.

Summer Surf Camp

The 2011 Summer Surf Camp Program is enrolling new students. Cost is \$180 per surfer for a week-long camp. For more information, visit www.mccscp.com.

Jobs for military spouses

The Military Spouse Employment Partnership Web site offers job listings and job search preparation assistance to military spouses. Visit www.msepjobs.com to register.

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COMMUNICATION

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post provides the commander with a mobile post that allows him to be at the point of friction.”

While many missions require varying levels of protection, from entry control points to vehicle inspection sites, the point of friction is where the main mission is located. For the Maritime Prepositioning Force, 11th MEU offloading operations are critical and the commander must be present.

“The communications team sets up the jump post so the commander can communicate to higher headquarters from the point of friction,” said Chamberlain.

Radio operators worked to establish stable communications, at times creating their own hand-crafted radio designs.

“We manufactured our own antennas with the equipment we have to facilitate high-frequency communications,” said Gunnery Sgt. Robert A. Ferguson, communications chief, Comm. Det., CLB-15, 1st MLG. “It’s important because high-frequency is the most reliable type for long-distance communications.”

Marines used Meal Ready-to-Eat boxes, camouflage net poles and slash wire to create their own antennas. After attaching the wire to a high-frequency radio, it was then connected to a tough book, and tactical chatting from Del Mar Beach to Red Beach and higher headquarters was achieved.



Photo by Cpl. Michele Watson

Lance Cpl. Jason B. Davis, digital wideband radio operator, sets up communications during a field exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 15.

“We are all very passionate about what we are doing so we are all having a lot of fun,” said Chamberlain. “This exercise proves our capability to establish a mobile communication post to enable command and control.”

The impact of the communications team extends beyond the individual unit.

“My job is the most important part of the battalion because without communication, nothing could be accomplished,” said Vance, 20, from Mc-

Call, Idaho.

Along with gaining experience in their individual jobs, the Marines also got the chance to train in other areas of communication.

“Being in a smaller unit, we’re forced to learn [about] every piece of equipment,” said Lance Cpl. Jason B. Davis, digital wideband radio operator, Comm. Det., CLB-15, 1st MLG. “Every communications Marine is able to become proficient in more than just their specific job.”

AUDIOGRAM

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hazardous per an industrial hygiene survey.

“We’re excited for the changes,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jerome Boyance, corpsman, CLR-17 RAS. “Before, only Marines of certain [occupations] got tested annually because they were considered to have higher-potential risks to receive hearing loss. Now, everyone is required to get tested annually.”

By monitoring hearing loss, the Marine Corps can better assess the causes and find solutions to prevent hearing loss, said Boyance, from Seattle, Wash. They can educate Marines on using proper protective equipment while conducting training, such as wearing earplugs and earmuffs while dealing with loud machinery and/or firearms.

Additionally, corpsmen can educate Marines on what activities and actions may cause hearing loss in their personal lives and what they can do to prevent it. Some of the most common causes are listening to portable music devices too loudly, or blasting music inside a vehicle or a room, all of which can be prevented by lowering the volume of the device.

Marines test their hearing by responding to sounds they hear in each ear that play on different levels of frequency, ranging from 500-6,000 hertz, Boyance said.

“The audiogram can detect how serious



Photo by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

Staff Sgt. Charles Mitchell, 34, from Carlsbad, Calif., Edson Range’s post exchange manager, Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, takes the annual audiogram test at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 13. The Marine Corps changed its policy to require all Marines to take the test annually in order to monitor and reduce the number of Marines leaving the military with hearing loss.

someone is experiencing hearing loss, and it allows the medical staff to give the individual an accurate response of what they can do to prevent further hearing loss,” said Boyance.

By giving service members proper advice and guidance, the Marine Corps hopes to reduce the number of devil dogs with hearing loss, said

Boyance.

“This is something that’s preventable, so we’re doing everything we can to help them avoid losing their hearing,” said Boyance. “The Marine Corps is taking this very seriously because there’s no treatment for hearing loss. You can only prevent further hearing loss.”



- GIVE HIM ONE! -

GUNNERY SGT. BENDER

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines continuously put their lives on the line when disarming explosives. One EOD tech with 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was named this year's enlisted EOD Tech of the Year by the Marine Corps Engineer Association.

Gunnery Sgt. Donavin G. Bender, 29, Bismarck, N.D., was selected as the enlisted EOD Marine who provided the Marine Corps with the most outstanding contribution to the Marine Corps as an enlisted Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, according to the association.

"Gunny Bender is one of the most hard-working, dedicated, and most proficient EOD techs I've had the pleasure of working with," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph M. David, Bender's platoon commander, 1st EOD Company. "He will go above and beyond what is required or expected and he amazes anybody he works with."

Bender's work ethic is one that makes a difference, and puts the EOD community in a positive light, according to David.

"On a scale of one to 10, he's a 10 with the volume knob maxed out," said David. "He only knows how to do hard work. Anything that he does he puts max effort into, never having to be told to do anything."

Bender was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Forward), from

October 2010 to May 2011. During that time, Bender organized large operations in which he led clearing missions in southern Marjah, Helmand Province.

"One of the most impressive things I saw was that he was providing support for Weapons Company, [2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment]," said David, 32, Naperville, Ill. "As an EOD guy, you're a combat enabler in a support role, but he was writing the five-paragraph orders, briefing it and leading a named operation."

Along with planning operations, Bender participated in multiple patrols, and along with his team, disarmed many IEDs.

"He would always train and talk to the Marines within the unit to make sure they were set up for combat success," said David. "He made sure they were going to be safe negotiating through a heavily IED-laden environment."

When he heard he had been named EOD Tech of the Year, Bender was in a state of disbelief.

"I knew EOD Tech of the Year existed, but I never thought I would be put up for it," said Bender. "It's pretty cool to be selected for something like this."

Bender said he became an EOD tech because he felt if someone should be putting their life on the line, it should be him.

"[I became an EOD tech] to save lives and make a difference in the Marine Corps," said Bender. "That's why I'm willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice, so that [a] young Marine can go home and see his family."

The hard work Bender put in to support the Marines of 2nd



Gunnery Sgt. Donavin G. Bender, 29, Bismarck, N.D., was named the enlisted Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician of the Year by the Marine Corps Engineer Association. 'I've lost a lot of friends, and I think they would agree and say I should accept it, so I'm going to accept it on their behalf,' said Bender.

Bn., 6th Marines, did not go unnoticed.

"He was the only Marine I had submitted for two Bronze Stars within a single tour, and that was because of the action that he saw, his actions that he performed," said David. "It was very impressive. He was doing what Marines are expected to do. A lot of Marines in other MOSs forget that infantry skill set, and Gunny Bender grabbed that bull by the horns."

Bender said he will accept the award in honor of the EOD techs who have lost their lives while fighting alongside him. He said he knew about half of the Marines featured on the memorial wall who have lost their lives since the beginning of the War on Terror.

"I've lost a lot of friends, and I think they would agree and say I should accept it, so I'm going to accept it on their behalf," said Bender.



Gunnery Sgt. Donavin G. Bender, 29, from Bismarck, N.D., will be presented with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician of the Year Award by the Marine Corps Engineer Association in San Diego, in October.

Sailors become stronger life-savers

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

– For sailors training to be part of a mobile emergency room, known as a Shock Trauma Platoon, every day can be a new experience and a lesson in saving lives.

To prepare for their upcoming deployment this fall, sailors with Bravo Company, 1st Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, are learning from their counterparts who returned from Afghanistan within the last year. As part of their training, they helped set up a Shock Trauma Platoon here, July 14.

“The big hospitals are few and far between in Afghanistan,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Kirk R. Atkinson, instructor, Advisory Training Group, 1st Med. Bn., CLR-15, 1st MLG. “The [areas of operation] are getting bigger and the mobility of STPs means we can give care in any area experiencing combat.”

When a coalition service member gets injured on the battlefield, the first level of care is the corpsman who is usually on the scene, but without larger medical equipment, the care he provides can sometimes be only enough to keep his patient alive just a little while longer. Once the casualty is evacuated, he is taken to an STP to be stabilized.

To prepare the less experienced sailors for saving lives, ATG trains Bravo Company on basic corpsman skills and things that are unique to STPs, such as setting up a small complex of tents to be used as a field hospital.

“[ATG is] getting them familiar with popping up tents,” said Navy Lt. Kelly A. Trout, officer in charge, ATG, 1st Medical Bn. “They’ve done a couple evolutions, but this is when they are able to view the STP working as



Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony E. Chow, corpsman, Advisory Training Group, 1st Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, helps set up a Shock Trauma Platoon at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 14. As a member of the ATG, he helps mentor members of Shock Trauma Platoons, which are mobile emergency rooms set up in combat zones, as they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan in support of coalition forces.

a team. They are learning from the ones who have done it before, in theater.”

According to Trout, an STP can begin operating on a patient almost immediately after arriving on a forward operating base, but that requires a lot of practice because setting up an emergency room can be intricate.

“It’s complex in that there’s a lot of moving parts,” said Trout, 36, from Central Point, Ore. “However, doctrine says you can unload everything, set up tents and treat your first patient within one hour.”

Within one hour, the sailors have to set up their tents, generators, and all the tools used in the operating rooms. Depending on the surrounding area, the STP may need to be even faster than that. Once set up, the corpsmen and doctors are ready to begin saving lives.

“You could be working on something like a twisted ankle one minute to a quadruple amputee you’re fighting to keep alive the next,” said Atkinson, 25, from Aubrey, Texas. “If you have competent corpsmen like you do in Med. Battalion, the situation could be made simple.”



Petty Officer 2nd Class Kirk R. Atkinson, instructor, Advisory Training Group, 1st Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, provides medical care to a simulated casualty at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 14.

Marines learn to identify explosive threats

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The deadliest threat to coalition forces in Afghanistan is hidden explosives, or improvised explosive devices. In order to locate these devices before they can cause deadly damage, Marines need to know what to look for and how to respond to any possible explosive threat.

To help Marines and sailors preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, the most knowledgeable Marines on the subject, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, taught Marines with General Support Military Police Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force, IED detection and the procedures for locating unexploded ordnance, July 14 and 15.

The Marines who learned about IED detection were taught how to properly identify IEDs hidden within the terrain they were running mock patrols through. The EOD techs taught the MPs when it was time to call in the professionals to neutralize an explosive threat, so that no



Sgt. Michael Skelly, explosive ordnance disposal technician, 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, demonstrates the proper use of a metal detector at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 14.

coalition force or civilian would become the victim of an explosion.

“The skills and tools we’re training them on will allow them to find IEDs

both visually and with the tools they are trained on,” said Staff Sgt. Ysa P. Rubio, EOD tech, 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “We teach them the basics of identification and detection of IEDs,” said Rubio.

Although the EOD techs are only teaching the basics of detection, finding an IED is still a very complex mission because the enemy is always searching for ways to beat coalition detection.

“It’s very complex,” said Rubio, 27, from Big Spring, Texas. “It’s a thinking man’s game. You have to be able to adapt to any situation and also realize when the enemy is trying to bait you into a situation.”

For the Marines who are learning about these counter-IED techniques for the first time, it builds a level of confidence that they know what they are looking for.

“This training makes me feel a little more comfortable,” said Cpl. Branden Deleon, dog handler, GSMP Co., I MEF. “You’ll never be 100 percent, but the more training you have, the more tools you have to counter against the enemy.”

Deleon, 22, from Kissimmee, Fla., said he has learned to be more aware, and to never let himself fall into a false sense of security, making him vulnerable to IEDs.

Added Rubio, “The main threat in Afghanistan is IEDs. Regardless of mission, everyone should be able to identify and detect IEDs.”



A Marine takes a closer look at a suspicious patch of dirt in search of a simulated improvised explosive device at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 14.

CLB-1 trains with Ospreys



(Above) An MV-22B Osprey carries an external load attached by landing support Marines with Headquarters and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 18. While attaching the load, the Osprey hovered less than 10 feet above the heads of the LS Marines, who attached the load in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper as the unit prepares for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan later this year. (Left) Landing support Marines load an external cargo package to an MV-22B Osprey during Enhanced Mojave Viper, July 18.

Photos by Cpl. Kenneth Jasik



Landing Support Marines with Headquarters and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, attach an external cargo load to an MV-22B Osprey at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 18.